

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated February 19, 2004 (U.S. Patent Office Paper No. 8). In view of the above claims currently on file and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1-17 are currently pending in this application. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,320,630 (further, Yamashita '630) taken with Asada *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,963,287 (further, Asada '287).

Claims 3, 6 and 11 - 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita '630 taken with Asada '287 patent, and further in view of Hamilton *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,503,494 (further, Hamilton '494).

Claim 7, 10 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita '630 taken with Asada '287, and further in view of Chiba *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,380,918 (further, Chiba '918).

Claims 9 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita '630 with Asada '287, and further in view of Chiba '918.

Applicants respectfully traverse all the above-noted rejections. Claim 1 currently on file recites a display device, comprising a display element, plural driving circuits, a display control device which transmits display data and a clock signal to the plural driving circuits, and a circuit board which is provided between the display control device and the plural driving circuits and supplies the display data and the clock signal transmitted from the display control device, to each of the driving circuits via a bus line and a clock line in the circuit board, at least one of the bus line and the clock signal line of the circuit board being formed in a continuous area along a long side direction of the circuit board and being divided into

plural lines along the long side direction, and said divided plural lines are connected to the display control device individually.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertions in the Office Action, claim 1 recites gate signal lines and drain signal lines "being formed in a continuous area along a long side direction of the circuit board and being divided into plural lines along the long side direction". In addition, claim 1 recites that "said divided plural lines are connected to the display control device individually". Similarly, independent claims 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 all recite at least the feature "at least one of the bus line and the clock signal line of the circuit board being formed in a continuous area along a long side direction of the circuit board and being divided into plural lines along the long side direction." As discussed above, this feature is not taught, disclosed or suggested in any of the cited references, singly or in combination.

The pending dependent claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 17 are allowable at least because of their dependency from allowable independent claims, as well as for the features recited therein.

Further, Applicants will point out that Yamashita '630, by virtue of its U.S. filing date and its having an inventive entity different from that of the present application, constitutes a prior art reference under 35 USC §102(e)(2). However, in view of the fact that §102(e) applies, Applicants will submit that 35 USC §103(c), which recites that

"Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. "

Since both Yamashita '630 and the present application are both assigned to Hitachi, Ltd., as set forth on the record, Yamashita '630 cannot preclude the patentability of the present application. In effect, Yamashita '630 cannot be properly cited against the present application.

Consequently, there is no prior art cited against the claims as currently written, either by itself or in combination with any of the secondary references noted above, that would either anticipate or render obvious each and every feature of the present invention as claimed. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable and thereby allowable over the prior art.

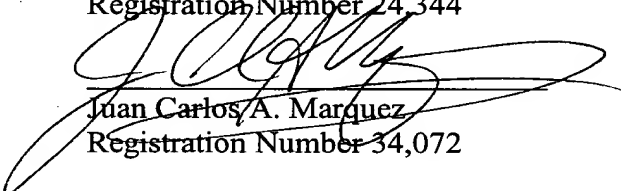
Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art references upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344


Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200

May 18, 2004